

THE MORALIST.

Quod vidimus, Testamur.

We give the facts—or good or evil,
Tell thumping truths—and shame the—Devil.

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NOTWITHSTANDING all that our False Philosophers may say to the contrary, it is a fact, that Virtue and Piety are always praise-worthy and beautiful, while every departure therefrom is ugly and contemptible. Even Woman, the most intrinsically excellent piece of Divine workmanship, however fair her face and perfect her form, if depraved, she is an object of disgust—of pity—or of hatred. ANGELS are always handsome, and DEVILS always ugly. Therefore I do most loudly proclaim to the females of all classes, who exert their utmost ambition to appear lovely, that they may bewitch the imaginations of men, not to be sophisticated by any assurance, any logic, any hope, or any lying, flattering, devilish blandishment of vice, into a belief that beauty, separate from virtue, can ever hold permanent sway over the heart of man. Nor would I have you believe in the power of paint, of curls,

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of wigs, of false teeth, of riggadoons, rings, and fine things, bad French, and thundering music, to allure and hold fast the affections of your game ; but rest assured in the old, genuine, orthodox opinion, that where the mind is improved by knowledge, and the heart adorned with gentle goodness, it never fails to impart a grace to the form, and a shining lustre to the face, exactly calculated to captivate the very gentleman you are searching for—and the only gentleman worth having.

And oh ! charming Belles, and dignified Matrons of my country—ye whose secret power imparts eloquence to the Senate, Valor to the field, and Glory to the Nation, wherefore are all your children avaricious, and your lovers destitute of patriotism ? Why is it that every drawing room is crouded with Coxcombs, and every National Assembly with Hunters for Office ? Remember, while you deign to smile on the base, there will be no room in public, or private circles, for the Soldier, and the Patriot. The Fop, and the Traitor, will flourish in the land ; no one will care to hate the enemy, or love his country—the Council-Chamber, and the Ball-room, shall echo to nothing but abuse against our own Institutions—the pure essence of National Spirit shall curdle into Party Malice—weak shall be our Councils, and divided our people—till, at length, Corruption having effected its triumph, shall deliver us

over, a race of degenerate Slaves, just fit to breathe under the lash of some Despot of Europe.

The foregoing reflections are the consequence of a visit with which I have just been honored by my friends Sir Harry Loiter, the Colonel, and Alderman De Ruyter. As soon as they entered the room I perceived by the wicked smile which played about the countenance of Sir Harry, that his mind was occupied with some extraordinary history, which his whole system was itching to impart ; till at length, fastening his eyes upon the Alderman, as if to watch the movement of his muscles, he said to me with a significant tone—" If the Alderman would " permit me to relate a History, very interesting " to all married men, and, by my troth, to all married women too, I could a tale unfold, which " should so affect the nerves of every Husband " in the land, that his first impulse would be, to " lift his hand to his forehead, with a view to feel " if all was smooth or not."

" I beg, Sir Harry," said the Alderman, " that you will have the goodness to withdraw your significant eyes from me, and, without any tantalizing preface whatever, witty or serious, short or long, good or bad, forthwith proceed to relate that history, the contents of which I have been made acquainted with ; for although I cannot but consider

it with horror, I desire it may be told for the benefit of the age, as well as posterity, it being a true matter of fact, such as actually happened once ; and such as I pray to God may never happen again for the honor of matrimony, which I look upon as a divine institution, well worthy the protection of all Attorney Generals in general, and of our Attorney General in particular. If you ask me why I say of our Attorney General in particular, my answer is ready ; for I think the whole body politic of our City, high and low, little and great, rich and poor, male and female, in office and out of office, need good watching, both day and night, and especially at night. Of all which I venture to say you will be convinced, when you hear the history which Sir Harry so provokingly hints at, and which I know his love of deviltry and his talent for embellishment, will induce him to give you in his first style of eloquent eloquence."

"Then" said the Colonel "by your leave, Sir Harry, I must intreat you to use no names ; and if you will have the goodness to lay the scene of action in some happy valley of Persia, near mount Taurus, or, if you please, in Arabia Felix, such a mode of proceeding will not only excite greater interest, but it will doubtless be very acceptable to the feelings of certain sweet-scented sparks, and fair amiable daughters of our Nation."

"I declare by the shade of Æsop," said Sir Harry, "that I will have nothing to do with fable, I therefore renounce your Persia, your mount Taurus, your Arabia Felix, and all other Arabias. I am a plain, unlettered man, hating disguise—fond of facts—an enemy of slander—a great hunter after news, and above all things a lover of the truth. And as for your fastidious notions about delicacy, why should I have any delicacy towards the abandoned, who feel no delicacy for others, and very little for themselves? Allow me, therefore, to proceed in my own way, since I have the Alderman's permission to back me, and more especially, as I perceive by the countenance of my friends, that they are all anxiety to hear this same history—that so nearly concerns Husbands."

"Begin then," said the Colonel, "but remember, if you swerve one atom from the truth, I will make you at least a head shorter, and I will hold up your trunk as a lesson to those scurvy Liars of the press, whose pestilent propensity must soon be checked by some such summary example, or else the Nation will be lost in the mists and fogs of folly, misrepresentation and falsehood." "By the faith of an upright and honest man, I solemnly vow," said Sir Harry, "I will tell you the truth, without even colour or embellishment."

"You must know, then, it happened very strangely that the first of April, about two years ago, did come on the eighteenth of June, and there were two Mondays in one week, a circumstance which never happened more than twice before since the establishment of the Julian Year. The Spring was uncommonly cold, cheerless, wet, drisly, and unpromising, and notwithstanding the earth was washed, overwhelmed, and nearly swept away with long and continual showers and storms of rain, yet was there a general drowth of Virtue and Piety, Generosity, Valour, and Patriotism, over all the United States of America, in so much that the Administration itself were sorely puzzled to obtain a sufficiency to conduct the affairs of the country in a proper manner; and indeed all classes of the community, as well the men in power, as those who had a patriotic desire to get in, did merely for the lack of those aforesaid necessities of life, very generally become mangy, scaly, scurvy, dirty, disgusting, beggarly sons of filth; so that those exalted gentlemen, who in the days of our glory held the expression and the form of men, were of a sudden most strangely and unaccountably, changed, metamorphosed, transformed, and sophisticated into mean, little, contemptible puppies, sneaking, growling, groaning, and dirtying all about the land, eating up its Bread and Butter, and complaining of all sorts of nasty dog-distempers."

"By St. Columbia," said the Colonel, "you have adhered to the truth so lustily, that you have already grown into my credit and good graces; whereupon I do most seriously vow and declare, that I will ever hereafter hate all men that have that same dog-distemper, which you have ingeniously described; and I will moreover for the time to come, give full credence unto every word you may utter, the same as if it were sworn to in a Chancery Bill; therefore, I intreat you to go on with your narration of facts."

"Stop! before you proceed a step further in your marvellous history," said the Alderman, "I have a doubt that has this instant struck me for the first time in my life, and which I humbly pray leave to propound, and exhibit for your solution—and that is, when the people were so woefully afflicted with that hellish, and alarming complaint, why did they not apply to the Doctors, for some phisiological relief—and to the Clergy, that they might pray to God for his Almighty help in such a terrible hour of frightful calamity?"

"Oh, hah! my friend, I can answer thy doubts, in less than a minute; for it is an awful truth, which posterity will scarcely credit, and indeed we whose eyes did testify the fact, find it a very difficult matter to believe our own senses in this affair,

yet by our best information it doth appear that there were not more than two Doctors and six Clergymen in all the land, but what did labour under the same distemper as bravely as other folks : and very many of them did distinguish themselves most rarely by their howling, their growling, and their very strange out-of-the-way, ill-timed and most incongruous tricks and capers."

"Go on," said I, "for the doubt no longer exists."

"Notwithstanding there was such a general drowth of virtue and patriotism, yet was the land most wonderfully prolific of the fungus weeds and spongy excrescences of Treason, and all sorts of Vice ; so that forty thousand millions of execrable sprouts, and tumours of that kind, would spring up of a night in the gardens, meadows, lawns, forests, on the hills, especially along the Coast, and even in the highways, all over the Union, whereof for want of something better, the men, and even the women, did eat most shamefully, to the destruction of their Health, their Morals, and their Patriotism, and to the very great irritation and promotion of the aforesaid diabolical and most damnable distempers. Every man barked like a young hell-hound against his neighbour, and many a sore dis-

tempered puppy barked himself into a good fat office, followed by a pack of barking opponents, quite as loud-mouthed, but not a whit better than himself. The whole World seemed to be turned topsy-turvy, and to march onward in its mad career butt end foremost—the weak beat the strong—and the strong did fly before the weak—we banged the British on the ocean in spite of their fleets—and they thrashed us on the land in spite of our armies—but to the Honour and the eternal Glory of Hull, Perry, Decatur, Bainbridge, Rodgers, Allen, and Lawrence, the chivalric Porter, Jones, Warrington, Burrows, and all our brave Sailors, be it ever remembered, that notwithstanding the dirty disorders which beset and upset the Virtues on the land, there was not a single Tar of America but what wholly escaped the aforesaid pestiferous, and infernal, endemical, and all-embracing distempers, whereof I most heartily wish this nation could be disgorged, as I hope and pray for the honour of us all, it will be in a hurry, or we shall certainly die of the Mange.”

“What conclusion shall we draw from the fact, that the Seamen did escape from that universal and most unnatural Plague, which so changed and discomfited the poor miserable Devils on the land?”

“Oh! by St. Commerce, a much injured Saint,

whom our country has not rightly worshipped, there are various conjectures and conclusions about that query which you make. Some learned philosophers declare that it is the finger of God pointing to a Navy, and frowning on conquests by land—others maintain that it is the nature of the beast, it being amphibious, to be sick, unless he can take the sea-air whenever he has a desire for it; and the Cabalists go so far as to say, that the race never will be worth a farthing until all the French and English dogs of every description, are sent out of the country; for they doubt not that it is the poisonous and infernal breath of those foreign puppies, which unquestionably infects the air, and disorders the nation, both in body and soul. But I will thank you my friend not to interrupt me any more with questions, for I am anxious to get on with my history of the times. I have heretofore only spoken of the manner in which the men were woefully metamorphosed and sophisticated in that strange year; which, if you will turn to the almanack, I believe you will find to be a leap-year. But I come now to speak of the women, who, to say the truth, did seem to have the very devil in them as much as the men. No sooner did they feel the jolly influence of those little treasons and vices, which as I before stated, sprouted out in every part of the nation, than they began to kick up their heels, and to smile upon puppies of all sorts, especially these of

the lowest and most scabby order. They leered at them, coquetted, jilted, and dallied with them, fondled them in their laps, danced up to them, first forward, and then backward, then sideways, and then all ways, walked with them in the day time, and rode with them a-nights. They led the way for the growlers and snarlers, in barking at their own country, and calling it by all sorts of scurvy nick names, and shewed their teeth in a most provoking manner to every man that had not the true infernal dog-distemper. The young women giggled about the land with their arms bare—and their mothers taught them only two reasons for going to church—one was to shew themselves, and the other, to see the men. Even this immaculate city, the purity and innocence whereof it is utterly impossible for the historian to describe, became in some rare instances, notorious for abominable, immoral, impious little impieties. In one instance there was founded a celebrated Academy, where they practised the fine arts—a sort of choice establishment for a select few—a kind of disorderly house of the first order, for the genteel only—and, by the hocus pocus of the police, they so did manage it, that it takes a very learned man, at this distant day, to tell whether or not his wife was initiated into that Academy of Arts. Indeed there seems to be a mysterious hiatus, and a black chasm—something like the dark and Gothic age, in that

part of my history. Let it however suffice to say, that the Devil actually appeared in the shape of a Police Officer one night, in Augustus street, when said Academy was in full session, and by his frightful, ugly, and appalling countenance, did throw the establishment into a most cruel confusion. The little truants, who had run away from their mothers to this leap-year school, were very much astonished, alarmed, disturbed, and frightened out of their wits. They huddled into a distant corner of the room, screaming, yelling, screeching, ringing their lilly white hands, tearing their beautiful hair, and begging for mercy. But not a bit of mercy did they find at the hands of that said Devil, for he ordered them and their gallants to be immediately chained together, and thrown into a dark and miserable hole of the bottomless pit."

"But when his highness did come to the inner parts of said establishment, to the sanctum sanctorum, where slept the beautiful Princess, whose high rank, and superior influence, did the honours of said Academy; gracing it with her special attendance, and curious concern, never was there exhibited before, such marks of surprise, astonishment—undisguised fear, and naked horror. But the catastrophe exceeded all things, for in less than an instant the Devil raised a mighty whirlwind—swept away the whole Academy from the face of the

earth—made off with this virtuous Princess and her sneaking gallant in a flaming coach and six, leaving behind him such a vapour of fire and brimstone smells, as reached the noses of some of the most unsuspecting, innocent, matrons in the said City of Innocence. And herein I beg leave to protest against that Devil's mode of proceeding; that it was cruelly calculated to screen the guilty; to cause the pure to be suspected; to leave all husbands in a most horrid foggy dilemma of misty, gloomy, and perplexing doubts; and, especially, that by the tempting honour of a ride in a coach and six with his Majesty himself, he did thereby hold out a dangerous lure to all adventurous and enterprising wives, hereafter to engage in the like tilts and tournaments, for the sake of riding. A temptation which I think highly dangerous to the peace and quiet of all good-natured husbands; pregnant with consequences the most alarming to the whole community; and such as I pray kind Providence, may forever and ever avert; for the Honour and Glory of us all."

Thus did the men of this land on the one side and the women on the other, practice all sorts of abominations, under the pestilent influence of the malignant stars of that horrible year, which is called and known by the name and description of the Leap-Year unto this distant day. And even now you may every where behold the ruinous consequences

of that famous drouth of Patriotism and Piety—for the nation is still most horribly annoyed by the seeds of vice, and the fungi of treason. Foreign puppies now and then growl and sneak about our houses, and eating up our bread, continue to be caressed and smiled upon by our wives and our daughters—national spirit has actually turned into party malignity ; weak are our councils ; the people are divided ; the foe is at hand ; and it needs no ghost from the grave to tell us what will be the awful consequences of our follies, our vices, our impious crimes, and our infamous treasons.

Ye, therefore, who in the midst of this universal pestilence, have remained pure and uncorrupted—who, proudly spurning away the seeds of vice, have nobly preferred the stunted, humble fare of virtue ; who hate the English, the French and the Devil—that you may honestly love your own dear native land, and adore the **GOD** of your fathers, in undisturbed liberty ; let me before we part, have one smile from your eye, and one shake of your hand. As soon as you go home, double bar your gates, put spring locks on your doors, read **THE MORALIST** often ; the **BIBLE** always—and above all watch carefully, and “beware of false Philosophers.” They will appear to you in all shapes ; under the cloak of Washington—under that of Madison—sometimes as an infernal Jacobin—and

sometimes as a canting hypocritical federalist—always abusing the English or the French, but never both of them ; and by this may ye know them.

To you, oh ye Critics, who are curst with the snarling, growling dog distemper as much as your worst enemies could wish, whenever you feel a sneaking disposition to attack this, my curious and true history ; which my trusty, and well beloved friend **THE MORALIST**, by these presents, by and with my consent and advice, and in consideration of the love and good will which I bear to the human race, flingeth into the public lap for the benefit of them, their heirs and posterity forever—whether ye shall chuse to fight me three thousand miles off, like the Bobadil heroes of England and Scotland—or hand to hand—and toe to toe—with a lance—or with tustle and tug—come on, name your time, place and weapon as you please ; and in defence of myself, I will endeavour to thwack your carcasses in the handsomest style of genuine chivalry.

